

Cir. 2019), Judge Barrett voted to rehear a case involving an Indiana abortion restriction that judges already deemed likely unconstitutional.

The Indiana law put minors in dangerous situations by requiring them to notify their parents even if a judge already found the minor to be mature enough to make this decision without involving a parent, which the district court noted that “the requirement of providing parental notification before obtaining an abortion carries with it the threat of domestic abuse, intimidation, coercion, and actual physical obstruction.”

The Indiana law was in clear violation of longstanding Supreme Court precedent, and the three-judge Seventh Circuit panel that blocked the Indiana law found that it would likely impose “an undue burden for the unemancipated minors who seek to obtain an abortion without parental involvement via the judicial bypass.”

Yet Judge Barrett joined a dissent that questioned whether the plaintiffs could even challenge the law before it went into effect, arguing erroneously that the status of pre-enforcement challenges in the abortion context” was “unsettled” and deserved full court review.

In another case, *Planned Parenthood of Indiana & Kentucky v. Commissioner of Indiana State Department of Health*, 917 F.3d 532 (7th Cir. 2018), Judge Barrett voted in dissent to rehear a case already deemed unconstitutional and joined a dissent that argued that a state should be able to restrict abortion when the reason for that choice is the fetus’s gender, race, sex, or fetal diagnosis (often known as “reason bans”), even though that provision was not being considered in the decision before the court.

President Trump has bragged repeatedly that he would only nominate justices who would “automatically” overturn *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973); it is clear that Judge Barrett has passed his litmus test.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a fearless champion of justice and the conscience of the Court so it is doubly outrageous that the Senate majority is attempting to rush through Judge Barrett’s nomination rather than addressing the many urgent challenges that are gripping our nation at this moment—from the devastating impact of the worst public health crisis in a hundred years, to the racial reckoning over police brutality and violence, to the need to safeguard our democracy by helping fund the election and U.S. Postal Service.

At a time when more than 215,000 Americans have lost their lives to COVID-19 and the need for health care access is more acute than ever, this President and this temporary Republican Senate majority has chosen to subordinate passing legislation to aid an ailing nation to stealing and filling a Supreme Court vacancy with a nominee hostile to health care access, hostile to women’s rights, and indifferent to the plea for equal justice being voiced across the country by Americans of every race, creed, color, religion, and region.

Madam Speaker, I end where I began: Judge Barrett’s extreme record on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, along with her ideologically driven writings and speeches, demonstrate that she is incapable of rendering equal justice under law.

I urge this nomination be defeated and that this vacancy not be filled until after the election of the next President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING OSCARIN ORTEGA AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Oscarin Ortega, Founder and Executive Director of Lived Experiences, a local youth outreach program, for my October Constituent of the Month. Born and raised in Oceanside, Oscarin launched Lived Experiences in 2018 to provide critical support and resources for underserved kids and teenagers in my District.

After studying the effects of early childhood trauma and understanding the hardships on a deeply personal level himself, Oscarin wanted to ensure others could be set on a life path of success by providing the proper resources and guidance to help them flourish. Through training and mentoring, Oscarin educated himself on various restorative and therapeutic practices that could help him and others overcome the damages of their past. With programs dedicated to healing and hope, Lived Experiences prides themselves on encouraging their amazing kids to embrace their brightest futures.

Oscarin has also stepped up to support local youth during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated food insecurity, domestic abuse, and financial hardships. Seeing these strains particularly heightened among his youth and staff, Oscarin and Lived Experience set up food drives, school supply donations, fresh haircuts, community events, and much more to help alleviate the challenges of these unprecedented times. With the support of the community, the Lived Experiences team has so far distributed a total of 270,413 pounds of food to working families in Oceanside.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. Today, I am proud to recognize Mr. Ortega as my Constituent of the Month, and I thank him and his team at Lived Experiences for being incredible role models and positive examples for the youth in our community. I am honored to represent such an outstanding leader in my district.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute, and to revise and extend my remarks.

I rise today in honor of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month to pay tribute to the numerous individuals and their families across our country living with this condition.

Spina Bifida is a condition I am very familiar with. My sister and my niece both suffer from spina bifida. I know how it can impact a family.

Spina Bifida is the nation’s most common permanently disabling birth defect compatible

with life. Because Spina Bifida stems from a hole in the spinal cord, a condition known as a neural tube defect, as the spinal column fails to close properly during development in the womb, it impacts virtually every major organ system. Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they become adults. Adults living with Spina Bifida face myriad physical health, mental health, and other challenges, such as unemployment and limited access to quality primary and specialty care.

There are currently an estimated 166,000 individuals in the United States living with Spina Bifida, approximately 65 percent of whom are adults. This disease is now witnessing its first generation of adults, an incredible milestone, considering that the original designation of Spina Bifida as a childhood condition meant that the vast majority did not experience life beyond youth.

We have taken tremendous steps forward in recent years due to dedicated medical research, but there is so much we still don’t know.

Unfortunately, funding for Spina Bifida is limited. The only place in the federal government that is specifically studying this complex condition for children and adults is the Spina Bifida Program at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the CDC through the National Spina Bifida Patient Registry and the Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network.

People with Spina Bifida deserve no less than the rest of us as we age. We must ensure that adults with Spina Bifida can receive high-quality medical care, and that researchers have the funds necessary to continue the development of treatments for spina bifida.

CELEBRATING THE WATER FORUMS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Sacramento Area Water Forum. I commend the Water Forum’s work on the Lower American River and for forging lasting partnerships with diverse organizations, including the US Bureau of Reclamation. The Water Forum and the Bureau of Reclamation have been strong collaborators on multiple habitat enhancement projects and on implementing the Modified Flow Management Standard.

With negotiations starting in 1993, the Forum has come a long way to provide cohesion in responsibly handling the water supplies and care of the Lower American River. Although the agreement was signed on April 24, 2000, today we celebrate this milestone of 20 years virtually as a community.

I want to thank the Water Forum members for the progress towards providing a safe and reliable water supply and the preservation of the fishery, wildlife and recreational values of the lower American River. I stand with the Water Forum today celebrating the opportunity to serve the Sacramento region in the future as we address climate change in our own community and across the nation.